

Who's new at the Legislature?

Colorado State House



Adrienne Benavidez (D) HD 32

Rep.-elect Benavidez is an attorney and management professional. She is a former executive director of the City of Denver's Department of General Services and she directed the state Division of Finance and Procurement under Gov. Bill Ritter. She has served on the board of directors or as a volunteer with more than a dozen community-based organizations including the Colorado Latino Forum, Progress Now, Padres Unidos, the ACLU of Colorado, and the Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People.



Jeff Bridges (D) HD 3

Rep.-elect Bridges served on the board of the Colorado Conservation Voters, helping to elect a bipartisan, pro-conservation legislative majority that increased Colorado's renewable energy standard. Previously, he was a policy aide to U.S. Sen. Ken Salazar and worked on John Salazar's successful bid for Congress in 2004. Before coming back home to Colorado, He was associate vice president at Union Theological Seminary in New York and earned a master's of divinity degree from Harvard. His bachelor's degree is from Kenyon College in Ohio.



Barbara McLachlan (D) HD 59

Rep.-elect McLachlan taught English and journalism at Durango High School for 20 years. She still serves as a college consultant, helping high school students find the best college. She also tutors and works as a student teacher supervisor for Fort Lewis College. Before embarking on her teaching career, she was a reporter for the Durango Herald.

Rep.-elect McLachlan has a master's degree in teaching from Regis University in Denver and a certificate in college counseling from UCLA. She also has a bachelor's degree in English from Fort Lewis College and a second bachelor's, in journalism, from Colorado State University.



Donald Valdez (D) HD 62

Rep.-elect Valdez was a soil conservation technician with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the United States Department of Agriculture. In his seven years there, he worked closely with local farmers and ranchers, as well as community representatives and government partners, to promote soil and water conservation and ecosystem management. He is a former vice chairman and Western Slope director of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.



Mike Weissmann (D) HD 36

Rep.-elect Weissmann previously served on Arapahoe County's Citizen Budget Committee, has attended town hall meetings on numerous subjects hosted by past Aurora legislators, and is a member of the Aurora chapter of the NAACP. Before running for the state House of Representatives he directed a statewide voter protection and voter education program.

**Dominique Jackson (D) HD 42**

Rep.-elect Jackson is a member of the Aurora's Citizen's Advisory Committee for Housing & Community Development, which advises on projects and programs to create more quality, affordable housing; She was co-chair of the Education and Advocacy subcommittee for Aurora@Home, a nonprofit that helps homeless Aurora families. She has also served on Denver's Commission on Homelessness and Denver's Sustainability Advisory Council; and El Centro Humanitario Para Los Trabajadores.

**Matt Gray (D) HD 33**

As a former deputy district attorney in the 17th Judicial District in Broomfield and Adams counties, Rep.-elect Gray has prosecuted domestic violence, robberies, assaults and other violent crimes. He now works in public finance for the law firm of Sherman & Howard, focusing on helping local governments build schools, improve roads and secure open space throughout Colorado. He is vice chairman of the Adams County Youth Initiative and also serves on the Broomfield Board of Equalization.

**Chris Kennedy (D) HD 23**

Rep.-elect Kennedy was an aide to Rep. Tyler as well as to Reps. Millie Hamner, Matt Jones and Jeanne Labuda; chairman of the Jefferson County Democratic Party; staffer for former Speaker Mark Ferrandino; and manager of the 2014 re-election campaign of Congressman Ed Perlmutter, Rep.-elect Kennedy is a Colorado native and has master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Colorado.

**Tony Exum (D) HD 17**

Rep.-elect Exum is not a newcomer to the House majority caucus. When he represented HD17 in 2013 and 2014, he compiled a solid record of legislative achievements, including new laws to streamline the delivery of services to our veterans, give working parents a break on their childcare expenses and cut the red tape that made it harder to connect Colorado employers looking to hire with Coloradans looking for jobs. His main legislative focus was fire prevention and response.

**Edie Hooton (D) HD 10**

Rep.-elect Hooton is a decade-long member of the executive committee of the Boulder County Democratic Party, a former president of the Democratic Women of Boulder County and has been an active supporter of the Blue Flower Fund of Colorado (supporting pro-choice women candidates), the Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence, Planned Parenthood and the Boulder Women's Health Center. Rep.-elect Hooton has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Pennsylvania.



Leslie Herod (D) HD 8

Rep.-elect Herod was a senior policy advisor in Gov. Bill Ritter's administration, specializing in social services, criminal justice, mental health and anti-poverty issues. Previously, she served on the staffs of former House Speaker Andrew Romanoff, former House Majority Leader Alice Madden and former HD8 Rep. Rosemary Marshall. Rep.-elect Herod will be the first African American LGBT person to serve in elected office in Colorado, and has worked as a program officer for the Gill Foundation, focusing on LGBT equality and alliance-building with communities of color.



James Coleman (D) HD 7

Rep.-elect Coleman is vice president for community engagement at ACE Scholarships, a local nonprofit providing educational scholarships to low-income families. He also serves on the board of directors at Highline Academy, a tuition-free public charter school with a custom liberal arts curriculum and a rigorous academic program. He has a bachelor's degree from Oral Roberts University.



Chris Hansen (D) HD 6

Rep.-elect Hansen was senior director at IHS Inc., a global consulting firm, and has nearly two decades of business experience in the clean technology sector, working with renewable energy and electricity companies, as well as governments at every level, to improve their operations. He also teaches energy economics and policy courses at the University of Colorado. He is co-chairman of the Colorado Energy Coalition and has served on the executive committees of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation and the Central City Opera.



Dafna Michaelson- Jenet (D) HD 30

Rep.-elect Michaelson- Jenet has over 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector. She and her husband co-founded the Journey Institute. They work in schools, businesses, organizations and with individuals to train in community problem solving and next level team building. She serves on the Adams County Youth Initiative board, the Commerce City Quality Community Foundation, The Carson J Spencer suicide prevention foundation and Playworks Colorado. Dafna also serves as a mentor for City Year, Goodwill, and Junior Achievement where she teaches in a girls and a boys juvenile detention facility.



Larry Liston (R) HD 16

Larry served eight years in the Colorado General Assembly (2005-2012). He served as chairman and ranking member of the business committee, member of the local government committee, and ranking member of the state veterans and military affairs committee. Retired in 2008 after 33 years as an Investment Executive, First Vice President, for the Royal Bank of Canada: RBC Wealth Management



Susan Beckman (R) HD 38

Rep.-elect Beckman was on the Littleton city council from 1999-2001. She subsequently was the Arapahoe County Commissioner from 2001-2013. Rep.-elect Beckman graduated from Colorado State University-Pueblo with a degree in communications and earned a certificate in state and local government from the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education. Prior to entering the election, she stepped down from her position as director of administrative solutions for the state Department of Human Services.



Phil Covarrubias (R) HD 56

Rep.-elect Covarrubias was born and raised in Arvada. Since 2014, he has served as a Commissioner on the Planning Commission in Brighton. He currently is an Xcel Energy Lead Foreman and also is a Marine Corps Veteran.



Kimmi Lewis (R) HD 64

Rep.-elect Lewis has held every office except treasurer in the Las Animas County Republican Party. She has served as the President of the Trinidad/Las Animas County Republican Women's Club for the last thirty years. She has regularly attended Republican Party meetings in Trinidad for over thirty years. She also proudly served as the Chair for Senate District 2 for many years.



Hugh McKean (R) HD 51

Rep.-elect McKean has been a general contractor on the northern Front Range for over fifteen years. He has served on the New vision Chart School Board as well as on the Thompson School District Master Planning Board, and has been serving the citizens of Ward Three in Loveland for the last seven years.



Dave Williams (R) HD 15

Rep.-elect Williams currently serves as Vice-President of Logistics for his family-owned and operated company where he helps bring businesses together to find tailored solutions for their customers. Dave served as Vice-Chairman of the El Paso County Republican Party.

Colorado State Senate



Steve Fenberg (D) SD 18

Sen.-elect Fenberg founded and was the executive director of New Era Colorado, a non-profit that engages young people in the political process through voter registration and civic-leader training. He was a nonprofit and communications consultant and currently a small-business owner of a bar in Silver Plume. He is on the Board of Directors for ProgressNow; One Colorado Political Committee and INVST Community Studies.



Jim Smallwood (R) SD 4

Sen.-elect Smallwood moved to Colorado after graduating from Fort Hays State University in Kansas with a degree in finance. He is president of Smallwood Select Financial Corp., a partner at McKinlay Smallwood Financial Planners and also works with employee benefits at Moody Insurance Agency.



Bob Gardner (R) SD 12

Sen.-elect Gardner is a United States Air Force veteran and attorney. He was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives as a Republican in 2006. From 2006 - 2012 he represented House District 21, which encompasses western El Paso County and northeastern Fremont County. He continues to operate a private law practice in Colorado Springs.



Rachel Zenzinger (D) SD 19

Sen.-elect Zenzinger was elected to the Arvada City Council in 2008 and became Mayor Pro Tem in 2011. She was appointed to the state Senate following the resignation of Evie Hudak. In the 2014 elections, Sen.-elect Zenzinger was defeated by Laura Woods; however, she defeated Woods this in 2016 to take back her seat.